Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07939 080908Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 /114 W

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R 080747Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4412
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ENRG IR

SUBJ: YEGANEH NAMED IRANIAN OPEC MINISTER

1. MOHAMMED YEGANEH HAS BEEN NAMED AS IRAN'S NEW REPRESENTATIVE TO OPEC MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, THE JOB PREVIOUSLY HELD BY JAMSHID AMOUZEGAR. YEGANEH WAS THE PRINCIPAL IRANIAN SPOKESMAN IN THE CIEC MEETINGS; AND, SINCE LAST MONTH'S CABINET CHANGES, HE HAS BEEN HEAD OF THE PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION. YEGANEH WILL REPORTEDLY CONTINUE AS PBO CHIEF WHILE UNDERTAKING THE ADDITIONAL OPEC RESPONSIBILITIES. ACCORDING TO LOCAL RMOR, THE TWO LEADING CANDIDATES FOR THE OPEC PORTFOLIO HAD BEEN YEGANEH AND MANOUCHER AGAH, AN AMOUZEGAR PROTEGEE AND NEW MINISTER OF STATE.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF YEGANEH'S SELECTION IN TODAY'S PRESS SUGGESTS THAT THE APOINTEMENT MAY BEPORARY OR PROVISIONAL SINCE IT MERELY SAYS THAT HE WILL REPRESENT IRAN AT THE NEXT OPEC MEETING. HOWEVER, WE ARE INFORMED THAT YEGANEH'S APPOINTMENT IS NO MORE PROVISIONAL THAN ANY OTHER CABINET LEVEL APPOINTMENT IN THE GOI, AND THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 07939 080908Z

APPOINTMENT IS OF AN INDEFINITE DURATION. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER YEGANEH WILL CONTINUE AS OPEC FUND CHAIRMAN.

3. YEGANEH DOES NOT HAVE (1) THE EXPERIENCE IN OIL AND OPEC AFFAIRS, (2) THE FORCEFUL PERSONALITY, AND (3) THE SAME TYPE OF CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SHAH

THAT AMOUZEGAR HAD. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF YEGANEH WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN FOR IRAN THE SAME LEVEL OF VISIBILITY AND INFLUENCE IN OPEC AS IT HAD WITH AMOUZEGAR AS ITS OPEC NEGOTIATOR AND SPOKESMAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN07939
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770325-0212

Format: TEL From: TEHRAN

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770984/aaaacsrv.tel

Line Count: 70 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 8b162c4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1341473 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: YEGANEH NAMED IRANIAN OPEC MINISTER TAGS: ENRG, IR, OPEC, (YEGANEH, MOHAMMED)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b162c4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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